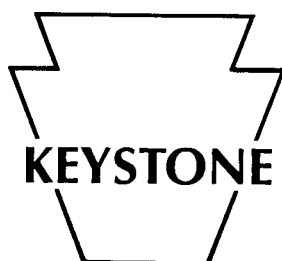




**NASS**



## Ag Digest

Released: Early March 2003

Bi-Monthly

Vol. 03 No. 05

### Highlights

Farm Labor  
Honey  
Farm Numbers  
Agricultural Prices  
Cold Storage  
Monthly Hogs & Pigs  
Trout Production  
Poultry  
Livestock Slaughter

*The Keystone Ag Digest may be found on the Internet at the following address:*

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa/agdigest.htm>

### HONEY PRODUCTION

Pennsylvania honey production in 2002 (from producers with five or more hives) totaled 1,026,000 pounds, up 6 percent from 2001. There were an estimated 18,000 colonies statewide, up 1,000 from last year. The average yield was 57 pounds per colony, the same as last year. Total stocks of honey, as of December 15, 2002, were 513,000 pounds, 1 percent less than the previous year.

Honey producers in Pennsylvania received an average price of 130 cents per pound for the 2002 crop. Total value of honey produced in 2002 is estimated at 1,334,000 dollars for Pennsylvania production. Pennsylvania ranks 25th in the nation for honey production.

A sample of honey producers were contacted in December 2002 for information on number of colonies, honey production, honey stocks on hand for sale, and prices received for honey sold during 2002.

Nationally, honey production in 2002 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 171 million pounds, down 8 percent from 2001. There were 2.52 million colonies producing honey in 2002, up 1 percent from 2001. The yield per colony averaged 67.8 pounds, down 8 percent from the 74.0 pounds in 2001. Producer honey stocks were 39.0 million pounds on December 15, 2002, down 40 percent from a year earlier.

Honey prices increased to a record high during 2002 to 128.6 cents, up 83 percent from 70.4 cents in 2001. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and cooperatives.

### HIRED WORKERS DOWN 1 PERCENT, WAGE RATES UP 4 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO

There were 884,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of January 12-18, 2003, down 1 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 724,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 160,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.32 per hour during the January 2003 reference week, up 35 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.29 per hour, up 4 cents from last January, while livestock workers earned \$8.91 per hour compared with \$8.20 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.50 per hour, was up 27 cents from last year.

Number of hours worked averaged 37.8 hours for hired workers during the survey week compared with 38.5 hours a year ago.

### FARM EMPLOYMENT, HOURS WORKED & WAGE RATES, WEEK OF JANUARY 12-18, 2003

Item	NE II <sup>1</sup>	U. S.
	<i>Thousands</i>	
Farm Employment		
Hired Workers . . . . .	23	724
Expected to be Employed . .		
150 Days or More . . . . .	19	609
149 Days or Less . . . . .	4	115
	<i>Hours</i>	
Hours Worked		
Hired . . . . .	37.2	37.8
	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	
Wage Rates for		
All Hired Workers <sup>2 3</sup> . . . . .	9.83	9.32
Type of Worker		
Field & Livestock Combined	8.83	8.50
Field . . . . .	9.16	8.29
Livestock . . . . .	8.34	8.91

<sup>1</sup> NORTHEAST II includes Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey and Delaware. <sup>2</sup> Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided some workers but the value are not included in the wage rates. <sup>3</sup> Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

# PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, SELECTED COMMODITIES, FEBRUARY 2003

Commodity	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Feb 2002	Jan 2003	Feb 2003 <sup>1</sup>	Feb 2002	Jan 2003	Feb 2003 <sup>1</sup>
		Dollars					
Corn .....	Bu.	2.36	2.95	2.94	1.93	2.33	2.35
Wheat, Winter <sup>2</sup> .....	Bu.	-	-	-	2.75	3.66	3.53
Oats .....	Bu.	1.83	2.30	2.45	1.91	2.05	2.02
Barley <sup>2</sup> .....	Bu.	-	-	-	2.17	2.85	2.85
Hay, Dry All .....	Ton	125.00	140.00	140.00	91.70	92.90	91.80
Dry Alfalfa .....	Ton	142.00	160.00	160.00	100.00	97.60	96.40
Dry Other .....	Ton	109.00	128.00	129.00	71.90	79.60	79.40
Apples, Fresh Use .....	Lb.	.210	.190	.226	.216	.258	.246
Potatoes .....	Cwt.	8.85	9.25	9.35	7.34	6.67	6.53
Cows, Slaughter .....	Cwt.	41.80	37.80	38.70	40.60	36.90	38.10
Steers & Heifers .....	Cwt.	69.20	72.60	74.40	73.50	77.80	78.90
Calves .....	Cwt.	115.00	110.00	115.00	105.00	96.80	97.60
Barrows & Gilts .....	Cwt.	37.90	32.50	35.10	39.00	33.50	35.00
Sows .....	Cwt.	26.50	21.10	21.40	27.70	22.20	23.20
Eggs, <sup>3</sup> .....	Doz.	.440	.500	.520	.366	.529	.466
Milk, Fluid Grade .....	Cwt.	14.90	13.70	-	13.10	11.80	11.50
Manufactured Grade ...	Cwt.	12.30	10.60	-	12.00	10.50	10.30
All .....	Cwt.	14.90	13.70	13.30	13.10	11.70	11.50
Milk Cows <sup>4</sup> .....	Head	-	1,400.00	-	-	1,370.00	-

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary. <sup>2</sup> Pennsylvania price not published on monthly basis, average price is published annually. <sup>3</sup> Market (table) eggs, including eggs sold retail by the producer. <sup>4</sup> Quarterly (Jan., Apr., July, Oct.). <sup>5</sup> Insufficient data to establish price.

## FEBRUARY FARM PRICES RECEIVED INDEX UNCHANGED FROM LAST MONTH

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in February is 99, based on 1990-92=100, unchanged from the January index. Higher prices for cattle, hogs, corn, and soybeans offset lower prices for tomatoes, broilers, wheat, and eggs. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affects the overall index. Increased marketings of cattle, broilers, eggs, and strawberries offset decreased marketings of corn, soybeans, wheat, and oranges.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is also unchanged from February 2002. Higher prices for corn, soybeans, cattle, and cotton more than offset lower prices for lettuce, hogs, broccoli, and potatoes. The Food Commodities Index decreased 1 point (1.0 percent) from last month to 97, and is 3 points (3.0 percent) below January last year.

## FARMS AND LAND IN FARMS UP SLIGHTLY IN 2002

The number of farms in the United States in 2002 is estimated at 2.16 million, up 0.1 percent from 2001. The increase in farms occurred primarily in agricultural operations with \$1,000-\$9,999 in sales. Total land in farms, at 941.5 million acres, increased 170,000 acres from last year. The average size of farm at 436 acres, decreased one acre from 2001. The increase in the number of farms and land in farms primarily resulted from the inclusion of pasture only farms in 2002.

The number of farms in the South Region increased by 5,700, 0.6 percent, and the number of farms in the West Region increased by 510, 0.2 percent. The North Central Region lost 3,300 farms, 0.4 percent. The number of farms declined 500, or 0.4 percent in the Northeast Region.

The number of farms in 2002 increased in nine States, remained unchanged in 32 States, and decreased in nine States. Texas gained 3,000 farms while Kentucky, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Oregon added 1,000 farms during the year. Arkansas, Montana, and South Carolina farms increased by 500. California, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, and Tennessee farms declined by 1,000. New York lost 500 farms and North Dakota lost 300.

Texas, which leads the Nation in acres in farms with 131 million acres, increased agricultural acreage during 2002 adding 1.0 million acres. States with decreases in land in farms were; Wisconsin down 200,000 acres, and Arizona, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Tennessee which declined 100,000 acres. Other States losing agricultural acreage were Delaware, New Hampshire, and New Jersey, each down 10,000 acres.

## NUMBER OF FARMS & LAND IN FARMS <sup>1</sup>

Year	Number of Farms	Land in Farms	Average Size of Farm
	<i>Number</i>	<i>(000) Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
<b>Pennsylvania</b>			
2000 .....	59,000	7,700	131
2001 .....	59,000	7,700	131
2002 .....	59,000	7,700	131
<b>United States</b>			
2000 .....	2,172,280	943,090	434
2001 .....	2,155,680	941,310	437
2002 .....	2,158,090	941,480	436

<sup>1</sup> A farm is any establishment from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold or would normally be sold during the year.



**UNITED STATES: MONTHLY FARROWINGS - NUMBER OF SOWS, PIGS PER LITTER AND PIG CROP;  
MONTHLY SOWS AND GILTS - INVENTORY AND NUMBER BRED <sup>1</sup>**

Month	Sows Farrowing		Pigs per Litter		Pig Crop		Sows and Gilts			
							Inventory <sup>1st</sup> of Month		Bred during Month	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
					(1,000)					
December <sup>2</sup>	923	905	8.66	8.78	7,994	7,946	6,031	5,850	1,194	1,165
January	946	930	8.73	8.74	8,257	8,130	6,022	5,835	1,190	1,150
February	967		8.83		8,543		6,020	5,810	1,156	
March	978		8.80		8,608		6,075		1,181	
April	983		8.85		8,700		5,980		1,173	
May	982		8.81		8,651		5,985		1,170	
June	938		8.85		8,301		6,030		1,168	
July	949		8.86		8,408		5,975		1,145	
August	946		8.88		8,405		5,940		1,120	
September	951		8.85		8,416		5,890		1,145	
October	940		8.83		8,300		5,870		1,175	
November	926		8.83		8,176		5,860		1,170	
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,429</b>		<b>8.82</b>		<b>100,758</b>					

<sup>1</sup> Monthly values may not add to quarterly or annual totals due to rounding. <sup>2</sup> December preceding year.

**TROUT PRODUCTION**

Pennsylvania's 61 commercial trout growers sold 1.64 million pounds of trout, valued at \$4.56 million during 2002, ranking fifth nationally behind Idaho, North Carolina, Washington, and Arkansas. This was down from the 1.88 million pounds valued at \$4.89 million sold in 2001. In addition to those sold, an estimated \$5.9 million worth of trout were distributed for conservation and recreational purposes throughout the state, primarily by state hatcheries, cooperative nurseries, and private fishing clubs. PASS, a joint operation of the National Agricultural Statistics Service and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, compiles data on Pennsylvania food and fiber production as part of a nationwide effort.

Sales of trout 12 inches or longer by the state's growers totaled 1.41 million pounds, or 86 percent of the total production sold during the period. This was down 230,000 lbs. or 14 percent from the same period a year ago. Averaging \$2.64 per pound, compared to \$2.50 last year and \$1.07 nationally, the 12 inch and larger trout were valued at \$3.72 million. Fee and recreational sales accounted for 63 percent of the production, and restaurant and retail sales accounted for another 19 percent.

Sales of trout 6 to 12 inches long by Pennsylvania growers totaled 550,000 fish, or 221,000 pounds live weight during the period. This was down 11,000 lbs. or 5 percent from the same period a year ago. At an average of \$3.50 a pound, compared to \$3.20 last year and \$2.50 nationally, sales of 6 to 12 inch trout were valued at \$774,000, with 75 percent of the volume sold to fee and recreational establishments.

Sales of trout 1 to 6 inches long by Pennsylvania growers totaled 220,000 fish, or 7,000 pounds live weight during the period. This was up 1,000 lbs. or 17 percent from the same period a year ago. At an average of

\$298.00 per thousand fish, compared to \$237.00 last year and \$156.00 nationally, sales of 1 to 6 inch trout were valued at \$66 thousand.

Trout distributed for restoration or conservation purposes, primarily by the state fish commission but also by private fishing clubs, included 5.61 million fish 6-12" long. Total losses of all Pennsylvania trout intended for sale were 1.02 million fish during 2002, with 75 percent being lost to predators and 18 percent lost due to drought.

The National Agricultural Statistics Service surveyed commercial trout growers in Pennsylvania and 19 other states: Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Idaho, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. Information was collected by mail, telephone and personal interview.

**COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS**  
**JANUARY 31, 2003**

Apples in cold storage reported by cold storage warehouses for Pennsylvania totaled 3,949,000 bushels on January 31, 2003, compared to 5,810,000 bushels on January 31, 2002. The three varieties with the largest fresh market and processing reported stocks in bushels were: York with 1,406,000; Rome with 794,000; and Golden Delicious with 749,000 bushels.

Total apple stocks in Pennsylvania totaled 165,953,000 pounds on January 31, 2003, compared to 243,982,000 pounds on January 31, 2002. Pear stocks in cold storage decreased from previous year's stocks of 869,000 pounds to 488,000 pounds on January 31, 2003.

**PENNSYLVANIA APPLES IN COLD STORAGE, JANUARY 31, 2003**

Variety	January 31, 2002					January 31, 2003				
	Fresh Market <sup>1</sup>		Processing		Total	Fresh Market <sup>1</sup>		Processing		Total
	Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.		Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.	
	(1,000) Bushels									
York .....	27	2	986	637	1,652	1	0	877	528	1,406
Stayman .....	20	17	33	45	115	4	1	34	8	47
Rome .....	33	66	297	616	1,012	23	55	215	501	794
Red Delicious ...	125	424	219	108	876	34	302	22	91	449
Golden Delicious	26	163	605	596	1,390	11	108	152	478	749
Jonathan .....	1	0	84	0	85	0	0	40	0	40
McIntosh .....	9	1	2	0	12	1	5	0	0	6
Cortland .....	7	1	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0
Other <sup>2</sup>	116	95	269	180	660	96	60	187	115	458
Total .....	364	769	2,495	2,182	5,810	170	531	1,527	1,721	3,949

<sup>1</sup> Includes total quantities on hand; graded and ungraded, packed or loose on the last day of the month specified. <sup>2</sup> Includes miscellaneous varieties and some quantities of above varieties not identified.

## MONTHLY POULTRY SUMMARY

Item	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Jan 2002	Dec 2002	Jan 2003	Jan 2002	Dec 2002	Jan 2003
Layers . . . . .	Thous.	23,938	24,654	24,921	338,966	337,473	338,122
Eggs Per 100 Layers . . . . .	Number	2,289	2,336	2,339	2,143	2,187	2,170
Eggs Produced . . . . .	Million	548	576	583	7,264	7,381	7,337
Chick Hatch-Egg Type . . . . .	Thous.	4,540	4,349	4,353	35,533	32,153	33,499
Chick Hatch-Broiler Type . . . . .	Thous.	13,264	12,688	12,471	775,669	753,633	759,773
Poults Placed . . . . .	Thous.	-	-	-	25,880	23,977	25,381

## EGG PRODUCTION

Egg production in Pennsylvania during January 2003 totaled 583 million eggs, up 6 percent from January 2002. The total number of layers on hand averaged 24.9 million during January, up 4 percent from one year earlier. Production per 100 layers was 2,339 eggs during the month, compared with 2,289 eggs in January 2002.

Egg-type chicks hatched during January 2002 totaled 4.4 million, 4 percent less than the 4.5 million hatched the previous January. Broiler-type chicks hatched totaled 12.5 million during January 2003, down 6 percent from the previous year.

United States' egg production totaled 7.34 billion during January 2003, up 1 percent from last year. The total number of layers during January 2003 averaged 338 million, up slightly from the previous year. January egg production per 100 layers was 2,170 eggs, compared to 2,143 eggs in January 2002.

Egg-type chicks hatched in the United States during January totaled 33.5 million, down 6 percent from January 2002. Broiler-type hatch totaled 760 million, down 2 percent from the previous January. There were 25.4 million turkey poult placed in the United States during January 2003, down 2 percent from the placements during the same month a year ago.

**COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, JAN 2003**

Specie	Unit	Pennsylvania	United States
Red Meat Prod . .	Mil. Lbs.	110.3	4,076
Cattle . . . . .	Thous. Hd.	95.5	3,007
	Mil. Lbs. Live	122.1	3,814
Calves . . . . .	Thous. Hd.	17.4	94
	Mil. Lbs. Live	5.9	30
Hogs . . . . .	Thous. Hd.	223.5	8,788
	Mil. Lbs. Live	55.5	2,353
Sheep & Lambs .	Thous. Hd.	6.3	239
	Mil. Lbs. Live	.7	32

## LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Commercial red meat production, dressed weight basis, in Pennsylvania during January 2003 totaled 110.3 million pounds, up 4 percent from January 2002. Beef production, at 122.1 million pounds live weight, was up 7 percent from January 2002. Total head slaughtered was 95,500, up 6,500 head from 2002, and live weight averaged 1,278 pounds, an increase of 3 pounds. Veal production was 5.9 million pounds live weight, up 13 percent. Calf slaughter of 17,400 head was up 25 percent, and average live weight decreased 36 pounds to 340 pounds. Pork production was 55.5 million pounds live weight, up less than 1 percent from 2002. Total head slaughtered was 223,500, an increase of 5,800 from last year. Live weight averaged 248 pounds, a decrease of 6 pounds. Lamb and mutton production was 680,000 pounds live weight, up 51 percent from the previous year. The number slaughtered was 6,300, up 50 percent from the previous year. The average live weight increased 1 pound to 108 pounds.

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

(((((

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110-9405

2301 North Cameron Street, Room G-19

STATISTICS SERVICE

PENNsylvania AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SUMMARY

PRST STD  
POSTAGE & FEES PAID  
USDA, TRENTON, NJ  
PERMIT NO. G-38